MONTEREY NEWS

February 2018
Est. 1970 Vol. XLVIII · Number 2

Pick up at: the library (in and outside), town hall, community center, Roadside Cafe, Bracken-Brae farm stand (in-season), Swap Shop

The Monterey skating rink, in the firehouse pavilion, is thirty years old now. Read the story of the rink's beginning, and of Monterey becoming a "hockey town," written by Jim Thomas, who had the original idea to create the rink, on pages 6 through 9.

The select board has presented a preliminary FY19 proposed budget to the finance committee. Right now we are 2% below last year's budget.
Select Board Corner page 22

Massachusetts Library Board of Commissioners voted to award a construction grant of $1,855,675 to the Monterey Library!
Library Notes page 2

Volunteers are now needed to sustain and improve the youth baseball program.
Youth Baseball page 5

Great Horned Owls page 14

Mayra Rodriguez will speak of the work she's been doing with recovery efforts in Puerto Rico.
Community Potluck page 3

Gardeners are the most optimistic people on Earth. Seed catalogs have been arriving since last November at our house. Spring will arrive sooner than we can imagine.
Attention Growers page 19

Can't We Talk About Something More Pleasant?
Adult Book Group page 10

Snowflakes and Faith page 18

Spectacular as Star Wars, sweet as a children's story, and bold as the God who can't seem to leave us alone.
From The Meetinghouse page 17

Must the store cater exclusively to the whims of the wealthy—a general store for the one percent—or can it do both?
Letters page 5

Ed read extensively and was always game for a lively discussion of politics, economics, or philosophy.
In Rememberance page 11

Maybe that's what crowing does for a rooster. Maybe all that hollering and deep breathing just heats up a rooster's insides.
Fire Rooster page 10

Joe found her on the ground, frozen. We have been admiring her in the kitchen.
One Lone Dove page 12

Residents can now have repairs made to their home of up to $40,000 through a new grant on a first come/first served basis.
Home Repair Grants page 4

Looking to Spring page 21

Library Notes

On February 1, the Massachusetts Library Board of Commissioners voted to award a construction grant of $1,855,675 to the Monterey Library! While it is no surprise as we have been on the waiting list since July, it is a relief that it has been made official. That is one more step forward. The contract will be signed shortly and they will be sending us the first payment.

Thanks to the Friends of the Monterey Library capital campaign funding, the building committee has been hard at work this winter. Plans are being finalized and we are on track to get our permits. We'll go out to bid and hopefully we can start construction in good weather. Thanks to the Friends we were able to keep the project moving forward while waiting for the final awarding of the grant. They have raised $120,000 towards the goal of $200,000. If you haven't yet seen the fundraising video filmed and produced by Wendy Germain, go to the library website (below)—it's right on the home page.

The next few months will be very busy here as we inventory all that we have and decide how each item will fit into the new library. We will be open for business as usual so please stop in even if it is just to get an update. We'll be looking for volunteers to help pack and move everything out when it is closer to breaking ground. We will hopefully only be closed for a short time—as we will be moving up the hill to the Monterey Fire House. A big thank you to the Monterey Fire Company for being so reasonable and letting us use some of their space for the year or so that we will be building. We will not be able to have art exhibitions, but we should be able to provide all our other services, and there isn't a scary bathroom at the firehouse. If you would like to help with the move, please join the Friends of the Monterey Library and you'll get updates of when, where, and what you can do to help.

—Mark Makuc
Library Director
MontereyMassLibrary.org

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Republican Town Caucus

The Monterey Republican town committee will be meeting on Saturday, February 24, at 1 p.m., in the church basement, to caucus to elect one delegate to the state Republican convention. All registered Republicans are urged to attend and vote. If you are at all interested in going to the convention, please be sure to get in touch with the Republican town committee and be there on February 24. You must have been registered as a Republican by December 31, 2017. The convention is in Worcester on April 28.

Then at 1:30 p.m., also in the church basement, the Republican town committee will hold a second caucus during which all registered Republicans will nominate candidates for this May's local elections. If you are interested in an elected office in Monterey, we encourage you, whether you are affiliated with a party or not, to contact Mark Makuc, mjjminmonterey@yahoo.com, or call 413-528-1382. The Republican caucus can nominate any registered voter.

The following list shows all the positions up for election and the number of years per term. Please look the list over carefully and consider what positions you might be interested in. We encourage you to talk to current officeholders to see what it takes to hold one of these positions. (The town website, MontereyMA.gov, lists appointed and elected folks by boards and commissions.) It is up to the citizens of Monterey to step forward and be part of the town government. This is a chance to run for office and do your share.

Zoning Board of Appeals 5 years
Board of Assessors 3 years
Board of Assessors 2 years
Board of Health 3 years
Cemetery Commission 3 years
Finance Committee 3 years
Library Trustee(2) 3 years
Moderator 1 year
Parks Commission(2) 3 years
Parks Commission 2 years
Planning Board 5 years
Select Board 3 years
Tree Warden 1 year

You do not have to be present at the caucus to get nominated, but the caucus does request that you express your interest in writing. Any questions can be directed to Mark Makuc. All registered Republicans are welcome to participate in both caucuses.

—Mark Makuc

Democratic Caucus

The Democratic caucus will be held on Saturday, February 10, at 10 a.m. in the church basement. This meeting is for all registered Democrats. We will nominate and select delegates to the Massachusetts Democratic Convention, to be held June 1-2, in Worchester, MA. We will also lay out organizing plans for the upcoming election. Encourage Democrats enlivened by the dubious state of the current administration to come to the meeting. This is our year to respond.

If you have questions, you can call me at 413-644-8833, or email me at drpatsalomon@aol.com.

—Pat Salomon, MD

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Monterey Election Dates

These dates have been sent to the *Monterey News* by Terry Walker, Monterey Town Clerk. They govern the timing of steps necessary to become a candidate for any town office.

- Tuesday, March 20, by 5 p.m.: Last day to submit nomination papers to registrars of voters.
- Tuesday, April 3, by 5 p.m.: Last day to file nomination papers with the town clerk.
- Thursday, April 5, by 5 p.m.: Last day to object or withdraw nomination papers.
- Thursday, April 28: Last day to post or publish the warrant for the election.
- Saturday, May 5: Annual town meeting day.
- Tuesday, May 8: Town elections.

Having a Good Day

- Taking a bad fall, getting back up, and you're not sore the next day.
- Someone ten years younger thinks you're both about the same age.

Barbara Tryon sent in this undated postcard of Monterey village looking west. Judging by the lack of fiber optic cables (or even phone lines?) and the lack of pavement on Main Road, this was taken a while ago. One might wonder if you can even purchase postcards of Monterey anymore.

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Community Potluck Feb. 21
Aid to Puerto Rico

Despite a foot of snow, the January potluck was held as planned, and the hardy souls who attended were treated to a presentation by Charlie Flint, who brought antique Shaker boxes from the 1800s, and explained differences in quality and construction. Thank you to Charlie for a fascinating lecture.

For the February potluck, we have our neighbor and friend, Mayra Rodriguez, who will speak of the work she's been doing with recovery efforts in Puerto Rico, what's happening now on the island, and how the community can help going forward.

The next Monterey community potluck dinner will be held Wednesday, February 21, at 6 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall of the Monterey Meetinghouse. Please join us with a dish to share with a serving utensil and a place setting and silverware for yourself. Everyone is welcome.

—Kyle Pierce

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Transfer Station News

Well, another year has come and gone. Things at your transfer station, opened in late April of last year, are running smoothly thanks to all of you. The very first thing we would like to say is thank you for all the wonderful cards we received over the holidays. They meant a lot to us—and that's not talking about all the yummy treats we received as well.

Mattresses, Batteries, and Compost

We would like to remind you of a few things. The first is that the town received a grant from the state covering the costs of recycling mattresses. We had been obligated to charge $20 for each mattress and now, thanks to this grant, it's free. As of late, several people have asked about used batteries. We can accept all kinds, large or small, for recycling. For small batteries we have a receptacle just inside household trash compactor area for them. As for car batteries and other rechargeable batteries, please see Beth or Dave. Talking about recycling and composting, you've been great. I read in some papers about other towns having trouble with their solid waste, but here in Monterey our total waste has steadily gone down. Keep up the good work.

Swap Shop

Don't forget the Swap Shop. Many great things are coming in each week. Beth has many books, games, DVDs, and puzzles to keep you busy through this cold winter season. So gather your friends and stop by often to see what treasures you may find. But before you leave your house, think about what you could bring that others might enjoy. Also, there is now a covered box at the Swap Shop to pick up the current *Monterey News*.

I would like you to know that from February 19 through March 2 neither Beth nor I will be working. Bill and Jennifer will be taking our places, and I know they will serve you as Beth and I always try to do.

Thanks again to everyone—you have made your transfer station the best around.

—Beth Parks and Dave Gilmore

Home Repair Grants Available

Monterey residents can now have repairs made to their home of up to $40,000 through a new grant to the town available on a first come/first served basis. The type of repairs include roofing, foundation repair, installation of energy efficient windows and doors, insulation, roofs, plumbing, electrical repair or replacement, septic, water supply, lead paint removal, exterior paint, and handicap accessibility.

Two-person households are eligible if they earn less than $51,200; $44,800 for one person; $64,000 for four people. The program is operated by the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission and provides home improvement assistance in the form of 0% interest-deferred loans. The loan is forgiven by 1/15th per year, so most homeowners will likely never repay any portion of the loan.

The program is being funded by a MA Community Development Block Grant awarded to the Town of Monterey by the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development.

An information session for the Monterey Housing Rehabilitation Program will be held on Wednesday, February 7, from 2 to 4 p.m., at the library.

For more information, please call Rebecca Haight at 413-442-1521 ext. 23, or email rhaight@berkshireplanning.org.

—Alice Boyd

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Letters
The New General Store

With a new general store on the horizon, I, and I think many others, would like to consider what kind of facility would best serve Monterey. Clearly, we're all going to have differing opinions as to what makes a great general store. Personally, I love the model of the Mill River General Store. Such a model might not adapt so well for Monterey, but the provision of basic needs for the community, which the Mill River store does so well, must be a priority for most of us who live in Monterey. I would go as far as to argue that a component of service to community be paramount for any proprietor of a general store.

Here in the Berkshires, an outsize portion of our retail is skewed toward wealthy second-home owners. Bluntly, rich people are where the money is, or at least that is the perceived south county wisdom. The key question seems to be, can a general store keep afloat while attending to the needs of the community, or must it cater exclusively to the whims of the wealthy—a general store for the one percent—or can it do both? I probably don't need to tell our new owners that a host of strategies can be employed—steep mark-ups on gew-gaws and tchochkes, a license to pour wine, the creation of great food and can be used to subsidize the price of milk, eggs, and bread, satisfying solvency while fulfilling a mission to local shoppers. I would strongly advocate for that sense of mission, that sense of service, however it is achieved.

So good luck to us all, new owners and customers alike. May our lives and our town be enhanced by this new endeavor.

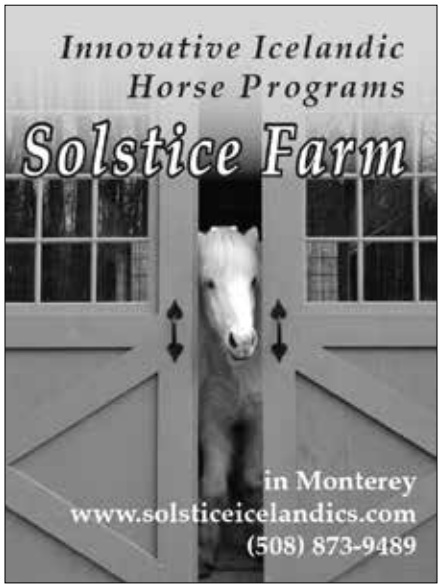
—Kit Patten
Fairview Road

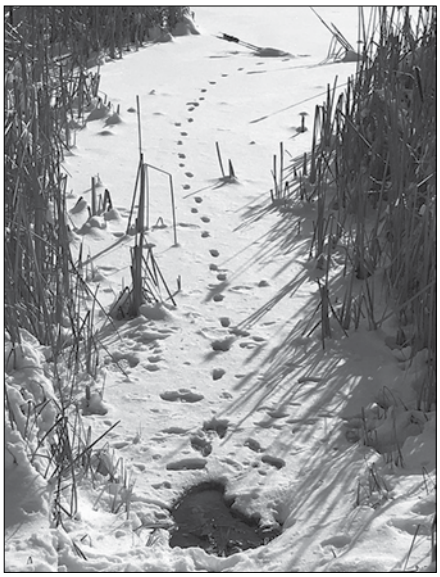
Youth Baseball
Volunteers Needed

Parents and Players—For the first time in thirteen years, I am hanging up the spikes and taking a break from organizing and coaching youth baseball. Thank you for your support and participation in Monterey baseball.

Volunteers are now needed to sustain and improve the program. Please contact league president, Jim Edelman, via email at cljvedelman@aol.com, or call him at 528-0006, if you can help. Contact Jim for the sign-up form for 2018, which should be returned as soon as possible so that he can assess the levels of participation for each team. Depending on volunteers and interest, there should be a rookies team (ages four to seven) and a coach pitch team (ages eight to ten) playing in Monterey, and a majors team in Great Barrington (ages eleven to twelve) at the Steiner school. Thanks again and I look forward to watching line drives up the middle, from the grandstands with you, in 2018.

—Steve Graves





Bonsai Cox

Someone, perhaps a fox, knew where to get a drink.

Leslee Carsewell
Intersections
through March 3

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Monterey Skating Rink
Thirty Years of Skating

I moved to Monterey with my wife, Tari, and my only daughter (at the time), Carly, in the summer of 1987. We bought one of the old Avalon School buildings on Route 23 and renovated it. (It is now owned by Tom and Suzanne Sawyer.) Tari and I had new jobs with the Lenox school system as teachers and were very excited to return home to the Berkshires. (I would later switch to teaching math at Mt. Everett in Sheffield.)

Our first big social event in our new town was, of course, the Monterey Fire Company's annual steak roast. Besides meeting many nice people and enjoying great food, I took stock of the pavilion we were sitting in.

I turned to Tari and said, "This place would make a great skating rink."

Getting the Go-Ahead

So I stopped in at a parks commission meeting on a Tuesday night in September and there sat the board—a very friendly Fran Amidon, Dek Tillet, and Tom Rosenthaw. After less than thirty seconds of hard convincing, they gave me the go-ahead and a $1000 budget to make it happen. They thought it was a great idea. However, I was cautioned, I had to get permission from the fire company.

I'd been told that Fire Chief Ray Tryon would never let it happen, as there was perhaps some political stuff going on between the company and the town that I had no idea about. So it was with trepidation that I walked in the firehouse to meet with Ray Tryon and Maynard Forbes, two stern old New Englanders who fixed me with icy stares.

Jim Thomas, with Mick Burns behind, was the spark to creating the skating rink in the pavilion behind the fire house.

After I nervously babbled on about my rink idea for seemingly a half-hour, they replied in about ten words, giving the OK. Ray took me downstairs, showed me where I could get water and even gave me a key to the back door so I could get in and make ice whenever needed. Wow! That wasn't so hard. We were going to have a rink!

Making It Happen

Now I needed manpower. Would there actually be anyone else in town interested in a skating rink, and more specifically, in my main interest, playing hockey? I went back to the parks commission to report my progress. And guess what? They made me a member. Dek's term was ending and he was thinking of moving out of town, so I ran unopposed and began a long term on the committee. Perfect. Now I could approve my own budget. (Of course, everything still went through proper channels, committee vote, approved on a warrant, etc. I don't want any scandals started here.)

I don't remember if we needed an approval from the select board or not, but somehow they became aware of it. Board members Jed Lipsky and Rick Melkie loved the idea and wanted to help. Fran Amidon's son Jay heard about it, and got his friend Mick Burns involved. Somehow Roger Tryon and Wayne Dunlop heard the news even out in the farms, and they got involved. There was an article in the *Monterey News* advertising a work party date in October. So when the big day came at last, we also had the Makuc brothers, the Andrus brothers, the Fennel brothers and father Bill, from New Marlboro, as well as Mark Mendel, Pete Murkett, John Humphrey, Winston Wilson, Art Engelburger, and a few Gould Farmers like Scott Steele and Steve Snyder.

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So started the rink. We spent our initial $1000 on the 4' plywood sheets that surround the entire perimeter. We designed them so they could be taken down and stored. Back then, the end of the building that you now enter into the rink didn't exist. That addition was added a few years later. We had a little storage room at the Route 23 end for our locker room.

To make ice, we'd drag a hose all the way out from the firehouse through the snow, and spray down the rink. It takes many layers to initially lay down the ice, as you need at least a half-inch in all areas. This took scheduling icemakers every half-hour around the clock to get the rink going.

Once we had a good base, we'd do maintenance with the "Jimboni," a large T-shaped pipe that you could hook the hose to and drag around the ice. It had a scraper blade and a squeegee with water flowing out small holes drilled out of the pipe. It worked quite splendidly, but we discovered after a few years that it was easier just to spray the ice down with hot water. But I'm getting ahead of myself.

The rink construction began in 1987. Among many others who helped were Mark Mandel and Roger Tryon, above left, and Steve Snyder and Kip Makuc, at the right.

Monterey—A Hockey Town

Skating quickly became very popular, as did hockey. This was perhaps the biggest surprise of the rink in the early days. I was probably the only person in town who had ever played organized hockey, high school, college, etc., on real rinks. I started a Friday night pick-up game and before you knew it we were playing Tuesday, Friday, and Sunday morning. We had to set "no hockey" times for public skating. Joe Milan was hired by the parks commission to give skating lessons. Someone donated that whole shelf of skates that still sits up there for all to use.

Many second homeowners became involved on weekends, like Joel Applebaum and Steve Butenski. We quickly determined that real pucks were going to be too dangerous as no one had all the proper equipment. Plus, hard pucks could damage the surroundings (and cars) when they shot out of the rink. They've been banned since that first winter of 1988 when we had three foam pucks that Jed Lipsky got from Cosby's in Sheffield. Those would also fly out of the rink sometimes, and when we were down to just one you would find a bunch of grown men with skates on, crawling around in the parking lot and woods in the snow at night, looking for that dang puck. There would be a rousing cry of "I got it!" and we'd all crawl back to the ice, shake off, and resume play. Eventually, someone ordered a whole case of those foam pucks.

The winter of '89-'90 began the ten-year heyday run of hockey at the Monterey >

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Monterey Skating Rink, cont.

rink. We started a Tuesday night league, with four teams. One from Otis, led by Mick Burns; one from Pittsfield-Lenox led by Carlo Zaphenella; one from Monterey led by Jed Lipsky; and another from Monterey-New Marlboro led by Kip Makuc. There would be 7:00 and 8:30 games every Tuesday night. Teams who were not playing would supply a ref. Standings and statistics were posted in a bulletin board at the rink. Teams would take turns being responsible for resurfacing the ice at the end of the last game. Hockey became a big thing to do in the winter in Monterey. People who had never played before became pretty good. So much so that I lined up a game against another men's team up in North Adams on a "real" rink, for what would be the first such experience for many skaters. Up there, you had to wear a helmet, so we scrambled to outfit everyone. Roger and Del Tyron became famous for showing up to play with their big yellow snowmobile helmets.

Later in the '90s, the ten or so best Monterey players formed a team called the Monterey Blades, sponsored by Player Crosby of Tryingham who had played in a league that played at the Salisbury school. But again, I get ahead of myself….

I need to specifically mention Bob Theriot, a name I'm sure is still remembered by many. Bob was a giant of a man, rough and burly looking and acting. The first time I went to his house and knocked on the door, he opened it and asked gruffly, "What is it?" I almost ran away. He lived out in the woods and didn't much like his privacy disturbed. I was actually looking for Mick Burns who was renting a room there at the time, but Mick wasn't home and so I ended up giving Bob a message to give Mick about putting up the rink boards. This got Bob asking questions about the rink, and hockey, and before you knew it I was inside having a coffee (I think) and discussing where you might find size 16 skates. Turns out you can't find size 16 skates, but Bob showed up that fall to help put up the rink and became a regular hockey guy, playing goalie in boots. He was known for stamping his big feet after a goal was scored on him and complaining, "He was in the crease!" Bob lost a battle with cancer later in the '90s, and myself and Monterey hockey lost a good friend.

Next Step

Before the winter of '93-'94, we decided we needed to build shutters for the windows above the boards of the rink. These would keep snow out during windy storms, but more importantly, block the sun on warmer days. Because the shutters would be permanently attached to a private structure, the parks commission could not fund the project. (The boards, which are completely removable, were okay for town funding.) So Wayne Dunlop stepped up, volunteering to lead a fundraiser. He solicited a few private donations, but our big plan was to have a coffee can with a sign on a table in the food line at the summer's steak roast, with myself and Wayne there to answer questions. We were hoping to raise $1000 total.

Guarding the goal, wearing a bright yellow-orange snowmobile helmut, is Jay Amidon.

One of the first people through the line was Bob Theriot, who gave us a check for several times our target amount. Then came Player Crosby with a huge donation, and then more surprises by people who didn't even skate at the rink. (There is a plaque at the rink listing nearly 300 people and businesses that donated.) After the roast, Wayne continued to raise money, and within a few weeks we had more than $40,000.

So we got our shutters. And new lighting, new interlocking rubber flooring squares like real rinks have, a scoreboard, plus we also extended the north end of the building by twenty-four feet. This added ten feet to the ice surface and allowed room to move the entrance to the far end of the building where we could have a lobby and a heated locker room.

Then finally, we built a heated water closet, with a hot water source, so that icemakers need not hook up all the way back to the firehouse anymore, and could use hot water to make new ice, much better than using cold water. After that, the rink became what it is today—one of the best "backyard" rinks of all time. (Just in case you are wondering what the rink needs now, twenty-five years later—it's a new surface. The current pavement in the pavilion is a mess, making it super hard to make and retain ice. Just ask Mark Makuc about this.)

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The Monterey Cup

And finally, I must write about the Monterey Cup, a ten-year event that equates with the famous gravity car races of years ago. The cup ran through all of the '90s, with Kip and Mark Makuc's team, Out of Bounds, winning the last one in 1999. This was a one-day tournament that involved six teams who would play each other in a round-robin format of two five-minute period games. Teams were ranked by their skill strength (all players were rated 1-3) and given a one-or two-goal handicap when playing a stronger team. After the round-robin games, the top four teams would go into a single elimination playoff, resulting in that year's cup champion.

This would take all day, and we'd have hot chocolate and coffee going, and hamburgers and hotdogs from the Monterey General Store cooking—it was a big party. Many spectators would come and there was always a huge crowd piled into the rink and around the outside windows to watch the final game. Just like pro hockey's Stanley Cup, the names of the winning team members would be etched on the Monterey Cup trophy each year.

Rick Andrus and myself were the only players to have played in all ten Monterey Cups, but there are many who played in at least eight. The only injury occurred when Paul Nugent of Lenox was unplugging the coffee maker during cleanup and the cord flew into his frozen face and opened a stitchable wound. By and large, hockey on that rink was a friendly and clean sport where the game stopped when someone fell down and they were helped up. (The Monterey Cup is currently on display in the Monterey Library.)

And so ends my ramblings about the first twelve years of the rink. My wife and I moved our family to Amherst in the summer of 2000, for her to pursue a career in educational administration. I secured a position with Amherst High School teaching math and science. Two of my three daughters went on to play prep school and college hockey, achieving a skill level that can only come from having all that free time on the rink at a young age. Although my Mom, June, and sister, Teresa, still live in Monterey down on Lake Buel, I've never made it back for a skate since I moved. I think I need to rectify that this winter….

If you'd like to share some of your Monterey rink memories with me, please write me at jranger6@yahoo.com.

—Jim Thomas

Stephen Moore

Mark Makuc

The Monterey Cup is currently on display in the library.

Steve Graves

Monterey hockey in 2018. Whether these players realize it or not, they owe tremendous appreciation to Jim Thomas, and to the many others who helped create the rink. The plaque at the top lists nearly three hundred names of people and businesses who lent a hand.

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Here's a Thought...
Fire Rooster

You may, or may not, be an early bird yourself. If not, you may even consider yourself an introvert. Roosters, on the other hand, are extroverts. They crow right out loud to mark the sunrise with bursts of assertive enthusiasm.

Though some renegade roosters insist on crowing at odd hours, there's still truth in that familiar-to-old-folk folklore. They seem to relish the hour when earth turns her face toward our star to welcome the return of warmth, and light. It's easy to understand their zeal. Dawn's a primal time, no less miraculous for rolling around again every morning.

Witness to sunrise can change your life, if your senses are awake enough to feel the awe. If you've allowed enough time to breathe into the moment, that is; if you're willing to drop your wherever-has-been regrets and what's-up-next worries. Dawn is fire and earth renewing their marriage vows.

If you spent much time in a rural area like Monterey more than forty years ago, you probably have more first hand knowledge of a rooster's early morning clamor than most folks alive in the US today. You already know that witnessing the active union of fire and earth doesn't mean you have to travel to the site of an

Mary Kate Jordan

erupting volcano. Sometimes that privilege is as simple as sitting near an east-facing window early on a winter morning, wrapped in an old wool blanket with your hands cradling a steaming mug of some liquid to heat up your insides.

Maybe that's what crowing does for a rooster. Maybe all that hollering and deep breathing just heats up a rooster's insides.

Whether you lean toward sipping, or crowing, you might want to welcome the dawn yourself on the morning of February 15. In the calendar used in Asian cultures, that's the last sunrise Fire Rooster will preside over for the next sixty years. If you're up and aware that morning, give the old curmudgeon a friendly farewell from the town of Monterey.

—Mary Kate Jordan

Adult Book Group
Upcoming Book Selections

The adult book group of the Monterey library has selected the following books for the next three months:

February 26 will be *Can't We Talk About Something More Pleasant?* This is a memoir by Roz Chast, a *New York Times* illustrator and cartoonist.

March 26 will be *State of Wonder*, a novel by Ann Patchett. A researcher goes on an uncertain odyssey into the Amazon jungle in search of a colleague and mentor who has gone missing.

April 23 will be a novel by or about W.E.B. Dubois to be selected next month.

Recently the group reviewed the list of books we've read, which numbers well over one hundred. By consensus, we narrowed it down to our two dozen favorites. Here are the first five of our favorites—*The Help*, by Katherine Stockette; *Water for Elephants*, by Sara Gruen; *The Thirteenth Tale*, by Diane Setterfield; *Cutting for Stone*, by Abraham Verghese; and *Major Pettigrew's Last Stand*, by Helen Simonson.

The book group meets on the fourth Mondays of the month, at 7:30 p.m., in the library. The next book is also listed in a bar at the top of the library website, MontereyMassLibrary.org. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to join us.

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In Rememberance

Ed Dunlop

Ed Dunlop, a long time resident of Monterey, passed away on Saturday, January 6, at the age of 98. He had been residing at the Pierce Memorial Baptist Home, in Brooklyn, CT, near the home of his son Craig.

Ed and his wife Gladys, who predeceased him in 2000, moved to Gould Farm in the early 1960s. They always had a deep interest in intentional community life having lived at several Bruderhof communities in New York and Pennsylvania before moving to Gould Farm.

In the early 50s, Ed befriended and worked with farmers Paul and Betty Keene, who were among the very first in the American organic food movement. The Keenes were in the process of founding Walnut Acres, a direct-marketing company that was the first to make organic/natural foods available through the mail. Ed and Gladys were always willing to step out onto the road less traveled.

When the Dunlop family came to Gould Farm with five of their seven children, Ed originally took the position of maintenance man, but soon wore many other administrative hats—so many in fact, that this researcher is having a hard time finding someone who knew exactly what his various positions were! The family lore is that he eventually became assistant director; I am not sure that is exactly true, but I know he was close friends of, and right hand man to, executive director Kent Smith, and certainly was an important figure in the history of Gould Farm.

Ed read extensively and was always game for a lively discussion of politics, economics, or philosophy.

He leaves five sons: Craig E. Dunlop of Brooklyn, CT, Stephen M. Dunlop of Macomb, NY, Brian Dunlop of DeKalb, NY, Wayne Dunlop of Chatham, NY, Christopher Dunlop of Monterey, MA, and one daughter, Janice K. Dunlop of Belfast, ME, along with thirteen grandchildren and eleven great grandchildren.

He was predeceased by his lovely wife Gladys in 2000 and oldest son James E. Dunlop of Monterey, MA in 2012.

—Susan Sellew

Above- Ed and Gladys thirty years ago loving their new granddaughter, Tarsi. Right- The couple's early years at Gould Farm.

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Eleven Juncos and One Lone Dove

There's a storm, wind and snow, temperature headed below zero for a few days. The birds get the forecast and come to the feeder to stock up. They keep coming all through the windy grey daylight of this storm: chickadees, jays, goldfinches, nuthatches. All of them are puffed up, their down coats working, their wire-thin legs and feet surviving thanks to a perfect system focussed on the core. Years ago I met a man working on barn construction on a bitter day, bare-handed. I asked how he did it.

He said, "The secret is to keep the body good and warm. Then the hands and feet are okay. They take care of themselves."

This may sound like some kind of corporal disconnect, but really it is a system, a design perfected in the doves by natural selection. As for us, we have to think to clothe ourselves in layers over the naked core. Natural selection did give us a working brain and this clues us to put on clothing of wool and feathers, getting them from the animals. Animals don't have to decide what to wear.

We have one mourning dove, gobbling down seeds, surrounded in our platform feeder by eleven busy juncos. These neighbors don't always get along so well, don't dine together. We've often smiled at how pugnacious the doves are, pecking and driving off other birds. These symbols of peace look out for themselves first.

What poets picked the doves? The English speaking ones, looking for a rhyme.

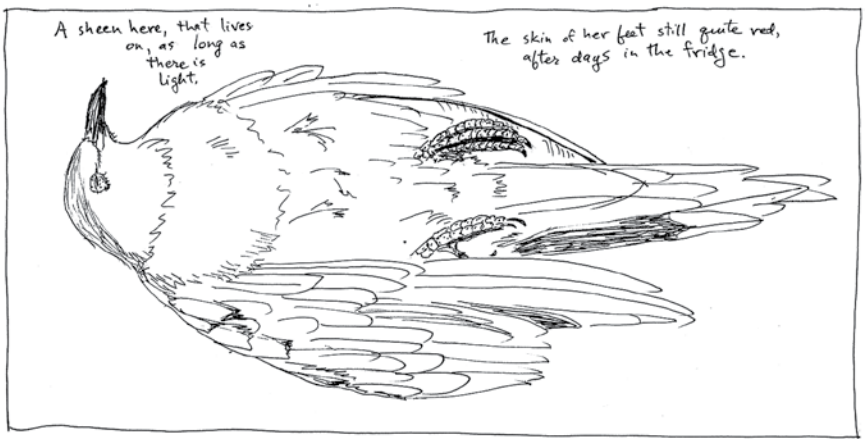
"If I had wings, like Noah's dove,
I'd fly up the valley to the one I love.
Fare thee well, oh, honey,
Fare thee well."

And then:
"You see that lonesome turtle dove
That flies from pine to pine.
He's searching for his own true love
As I will search for mine."

Our turtle dove in the storm might be lonesome. I don't see any others on the wing out there, or on the ground, but we do have one here in the house. She died somehow and Joe found her on the ground, frozen. It was a sunny day, and the gleam on her modest dove-grey breast and shoulder feathers was just out of this world with lavender, green, bronze, and many sorts of blue. We have been admiring her in the kitchen. Her legs are a wonderful pinkish red. Maybe she's gone up the valley to the one she loves. Maybe he's the one riding out this storm alone, taking a break at our feeder.

How can her legs look so alive, so pink and healthy, after her death and her quiet days in our house, with no beating heart? Her feathers, too, gleam and send back the sun, thanks to their intricate structure and design for the reflection of certain colors. So she carries on with me, as long as I am so lucky as to see her, to appreciate her, with my wondering eye, my own warm core and beating heart. As for the lone dove in the storm, he lives in my beating heart, too, as I watch him. Those eleven juncos know he is there, and their common need in the face of this storm keeps them peaceful with each other, today.

Forbush describes the doves like this: "Below, vinaceous buff, often tinged purplish on breast. Legs and feet, lake red. Claws, horn blue." He tells us the bird is about a foot long, with a wingspan 17 to 19 inches, and weighs three ounces.



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He writes that all the pigeons and doves have bills with a convex horny tip and a "tumid membrane" at the base of the upper mandible which is where the nostrils are. He says they drink by sticking the bill all the way into the water right to the base and sucking in water. No other birds do this. In fact, doves need lots of water and drink and bathe both in the morning and at night. They know where water can be found, and desert travellers follow the morning and evening flight of doves to find the way to water. (*Birds of Massachusetts and other New England States*, Edward Howe Forbush, 1927.)

In April the doves will be nesting, and they usually lay two or three eggs, but may have two broods in one summer. The new hatchlings have no feathers and their first food is called "pigeon's milk." It consists of a "white curd" according to Forbush, made of shed cells from the lining of the crop, forming a white, cheesy, thick liquid which is 35% fat. By comparison, cow's milk is 5% at most. (From *1001 Questions Answered About Birds*, Allan D. and Helen G. Cruickshank, 1958.)

At one time the doves were hunted nearly to extinction here, like the famous passenger pigeons. In 1908, Massachusetts gave the doves perpetual protection under law, and their populations are stable now. The one that died outside our house was brought in for admiring and so I could draw a picture of it. I finished the drawing and went downstairs for something, only to come back and find an empty saucer on my desk! She'd been snagged by the cat, who knows a windfall when he sees it.

By the time he was done, the living-room was nearly wall-to-wall dove feathers, as if our snowstorm had blown right in the door. As I tidied up I marvelled again at the design, the insulation, the remarkable package that is the dove. One feather after another, some tiny and fluffy, some long and strong. All of them set just right for every purpose: love, courtship, sex, flight, propagation, travel, and sheer beauty. As if all this were not enough, we have the music of the dove.

Now and then we must stop, hold still long enough for it to hit us that things are just miracle upon miracle around here.

—Bonner McAllester

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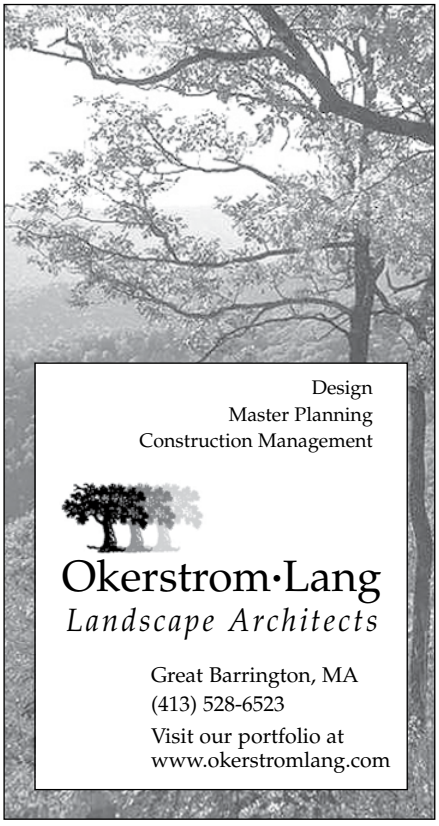

Great Horned Owl
Winter Nesting

Why is it so interesting to write about owls, and so entertaining for readers to wonder about their mystical and metaphysical nocturnal awareness? In my literary experience, the great horned owl ranks equally with the raven, albatross, and Arctic tern as astounding subjects. The great horned owl is the largest owl in this country, standing almost two feet tall, and second in size all over the globe only to the leviathan Eurasian eagle owl far across the pond. For bird watchers, a great horned owl sighting is a memorable moment, as it is mostly nocturnal, appearing at the crack of dawn, or between sunset and sundown.

Classified as *Bubo virginianos*, it gets its everyday common name from two horn-shaped cartiledge extensions along both ear tufts on either side of its head. When the owl is agitated these "horns" are laid back while the owl is leaning forward and puffing out chest feathers for a villainous expression perhaps characteristic of the devil himself. Such reaction is best understood by Darwin's theory of "survival of the fittest" in the evolution of species. As the ruling monarch of its realm of avian habitat, it will clash even with bald eagles over territorial disputes, and the eagle's reputation of stealing prey from other raptors.

When that happens, it is said that the outcome of the conflict can go either way depending upon which of the two gets the best grip with razor sharp talons from which to launch fatal bites of a powerful beak. Similarly the great horned owl ranks as the only owl to mortally wound a human being, who was foolishly climbing up to capture a fledgling still with pale plumage, possibly to put on stage for a Birds Of Prey lecture and demonstration. As in my illustration, unfortunately for human collectors, the nest is watchfully guarded by the matriarch of wrath, as well as the frequent surprise appearances of the old man, arriving with the sustenance of his latest kills, including mammals, bats, reptiles, and other birds.

Their large yellow eyes aid their ability to hunt by day or night, but their eyesight, like others of their kind, is very limited. They depend more on audible signals, by being endowed with a dish-shaped face that only a mother could love. The ear canals, at the centers of their asymmetrical facial feathers, receive bi-aural signals indicating direction and distance, permitting the owls to turn their head instantly up to 290 degrees as accurately as the echo location of a radar-type reflector.

Now, with mid-winter just over the glacial horizon, they will be looking for a nesting site. They usually move into a site abandoned by other birds of prey rather than building their own at this time of year. If you crack your window before going to bed at night to sleep better, you might hear the sonorous courtship tones of the male, followed by the receptive higher hoots of the female. Both are already inspired by reproductive instincts—motivated even now with seasonal awareness that the cold night of winter is but the planetary effect of the Sun upon the orbiting, tilted Earth, that harbors, for them, the ritual of nesting mid-winter, well ahead of all the other birds.

—George B. Emmons

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Police Report
Late December to Late January

Wellness
There have been reports in the *Sandisfield Times* and *The Berkshire Eagle* about the declining ability of ambulance and emergency services to reach folks in a timely way. Our officers respond every month to various medical situations, often being the first to arrive. Well-being checks are conducted on request, and direct assistance is provided when called for. We have to wonder how some of these situations might have turned out without the skilled responses.

There were five calls during this period for medical situations, with four that then required ambulance transport. In one of those cases, the sergeant arrived to find a person having difficulty breathing and he administered oxygen until the Monterey Fire Company EMTs arrived. There were also several medical alarms received that were sent in error.

The police department received a call for a well-being check on some children on Main Road. Their residence appeared to be safe, and a report was filed with the state department of children and families.

While on a routine patrol during some very cold weather, an officer noticed a vehicle parked at the Lake Buel boat launch. The officer observed that the man in the car was passed out in the driver's seat. The vehicle was not running and the outside temperature was -3°. The officer knocked on the window and woke him up. The driver explained that he was down on his luck with no money, gas, or a place to go. The officer contacted Construct, a shelter in Great Barrington, and they had a room. The officer assisted by helping him to get gas and get to the shelter.

Had the car not been observed or investigated, this could have been a very different story.

Alarms
There were four smoke and fire alarms during this period. Two were determined to be cooking related, one in late morning involved the smell of burning plastic. No report as to what was on the breakfast menu. One of the smoke alarms involved an owner prematurely closing the damper on a woodstove, causing smoke to enter into the living space. People should be aware that if a damper is shut before a fire is fully burned out, there is a risk of carbon monoxide entering the living space as well. If you have any doubt, leave the damper just slightly open.

Vehicles
It is winter, and vehicles were slip-sliding away. One went off Tyringham Road. Two others, in separate incidences, slid on some ice and struck the New Marlboro Road bridge.

A car went off the road into a snow bank on Corashire Road. An officer responded to the scene. A passing truck stopped to pull the vehicle out and pushed back the snow. The police officer provided traffic control until the area was cleared.

An accident on the Sandisfield Road was reported by the highway department. A driver traveling in the direction of the village on Sandisfield Road lost control of her vehicle. She struck the town's Oshkosh truck head-on. Fortunately, she was wearing a seat belt and her air bags deployed. She was shaken up, but uninjured.

A call reported an accident. A car was found to have hit a tree in the area of Cronk and Sandisfield Roads. The driver was uninjured and the car was towed.

A traffic stop was made on Route 57 for speeding. It turned out the car had been unregistered for the past year. It was towed and a citation was issued.

Mammals
While parked at the intersection of Routes 23 and 57, an officer was approached by two women who reported that their two horses were missing from New Marlborough. While checking the area, the officer located the horses. As there was not a New Marlborough officer on duty, the Monterey officer followed behind the women with his emergency lights on while the horses were walked home.

Another time an officer responded to a report of three horses loose on Blue Hill Road. The owners were contacted, and they walked their horses home.

Someone called to report a loose dog in her compost. An officer responded, but found the dog to be in the house with no one home. The dog must've overheard the complaint and hustled right home, closing the door behind. A letter was left explaining that the dog must be under control and is restricted to their property.

An instance of check fraud was called in, most likely perpetrated by a mammal. Charges are pending.

Trees
During some of our very windy January weather there was a report of a tree on power lines on Beartown Mountain Road, as well as another tree two days later on the same road, blocking the road. In the case of the second one, the officer was able to drag the tree out of the traveled way. Another tree was reported down on Blue Hill Road.

Call 528-3211 to reach the police department for non-emergencies.

Monterey Community Potluck Suppers

Join us this month to hear:
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Hear about Mayra's efforts sending relief supplies to Puerto Rico.

See the community potluck supper article on page 3.

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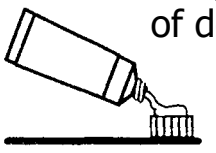

528-6520

Route 23 Monterey

From the Meetinghouse

Caution—This contains Star Wars spoilers!

I've been immersed lately in the Star Wars universe. It happens from time to time, though usually it's due to those whom I live with. Jesse, my husband, has loved Star Wars for nearly his whole life long, *A New Hope* having come out when he was seven years old. It's looking as if our two sons will take up that mantle and love it for the entirety of their lives.

This time, though, my immersion is of my own making. All the newer characters are interesting to me—Rey, Finn, Poe. But I'm fascinated most by the recent incarnation of the "bad guy," Kylo Ren.

He's been criticized for being more "emo" than evil, more a whiny millennial (not my words!) than a brutal mass-murderer (a strange criticism in any context other than the movies). But that sometimes self-indulgent ambivalence is what interests me. The most recent episodes from the Star Wars universe involve ambiguity in a way that makes the movies feel more adult, and have me more engaged.

A most-mocked scene (whether affectionately or derisively is for you to decide) is from *The Force Awakens*, when Kylo Ren, who had been Ben Solo before he went to the Dark Side of the Force, confronts his father, Han Solo.

He begins by insulting Han. "Your son is gone," he says. "He was weak and foolish, like his father."

Being called a weak fool, though, doesn't dissuade Han Solo's approach, or his yearning that his son come back to him.

But this itself is a show of the very weakness and folly that Kylo Ren disdains.

Kylo has, after all, done terrible things. For example, he slaughtered his schoolmates in what might have once seemed a thing very much "of the movies," but now lands as a school shooting of the sort that is no longer unimaginable.

Yet Han Solo sees only his son.

His soft heart for Ben, though, would be the spur for Kylo Ren to kill Han—and by tricking him to come closer. "I'm being torn apart," he says to his father, a line that critics use as evidence that he's just a big whiner. But I think by this he's playing to his father's sympathy, testing to see if there's some stronger mettle in there, while also luring him in. "I want to be free of this pain," he says, tearing up, crocodile tears if you ask me. "I know what I have to do but I don't know if I have the strength to do it. Will you help me?"

Han Solo says he will. He'll do anything, and he closes in for embrace, for reconciliation.

But that's not what Kylo Ren apparently had in mind.

Worse, it's not what he seems to have needed.

A monster, he seems to have needed that terrible fact aired. In fact, he says it himself several times, throughout these two movies, though only after he has it said to him about him. "I'm a monster."

Rey, our newest Star Wars hero, who is a now-grown scavenger long ago abandoned by her parents, is the one first to say it. Having got caught up with the Resistance, and now discovering that she too is strong with the Force, she has a moment alone with Kylo Ren, wherein she calls him out. "You're a monster."

Not coincidentally, if you ask me, she's the only person Kylo Ren ever comes to trust, drawn to her as he is again and again. And it's by this recognition and attraction, the story suggests, that there's hope for him and, by extension, for the galaxy.

A picture book we read a lot as a family when the boys were young, *Jeremy Draws a Monster*, by Peter McCarty, features a boy who has a numeral 3 drawn on his shirt, and so can be understood as a three-year-old.

This, as it happens, is around the age when children are able to experience themselves as separate from the world around them. The bad news is that they realize they're not in control of this world, though the good news is that they're agents in their own self-interest. But there's more bad news—their agency is terribly limited because they have so little power. For this, they're in a constant state of frustration, and will fall into the occasional state of rage, sometimes monstrously so.

This three-year-old, Jeremy, draws a monster. Though born of his own imagination, this monster begins to take over his little world. He makes Jeremy draw him a sandwich because he's hungry, and he doesn't even thank him for it. He makes him draw a toaster because he likes toast, and then to draw a record player because it's too quiet in the apartment. He wants to play checkers and to sit in a comfortable chair. He wants a television, a hot dog, a telephone, a piece of cake. Finally, he wants a hat because he's going out because he's disdainful of Jeremy's sitting around the house all day.

Jeremy was relieved once the monster was gone.

But then the monster came back—that night, and he woke him from sleep and he kicked him out of the bed so he could sleep in it.

The next morning, Jeremy had apparently decided to do something about this monster. So he drew him a one-way bus ticket and a suitcase. He dropped the monster off at the bus station and, when he got home to his apartment building, he saw some children playing out front.

They asked him if he wanted to join their play.

He did, so he did.

Whenever we read this story together, I wondered if the boys saw themselves in Jeremy or in the monster—or in both. And I liked to imagine that, if they related to the monster, they also found some comfort in the fact that this monstrosity could be addressed. We recognized it. (With Jack, our younger, it was especially hard to miss; it's said he takes after his mother, but I'm not convinced.) And, in having recognized it, we could manage it, which in time they'd each be able to do as well.

This month will usher in Lent, a season of penitence in preparation for Easter. On Ash Wednesday, which this year coincides with Valentine's Day, February 14, we'll hold an evening service of confession and the imposition of ashes. These are a reminder that we come from dust and to dust we'll return, and that meanwhile we'll live lives of beauty and monstrosity, of grace and sin.

This can be felt as a heavy season, but it's not in my experience. I actually like the chance to call out the aspects of my life that I regret aspects that would otherwise redouble whatever shame I might feel in their regard by my keeping them in a

Friends and supporters from Monterey and surrounding towns had a chance to meet Leslee Carsewell and see her elegant work. These multilayered pieces incorporate drawing and collage and use a variety of materials. In her artist statement, Leslee talks about her hope that, "These pieces come across as lyrical, ethereal, mysterious, with a dose of ambiguity." —Julie Shapiro (Photos by Maureen Banner)

Leslee was wearing a scarf with an artist's statement.

dark place of denial—shame upon shame. I actually like the chance to recognize what's monstrous about me, and about us (whatever "us" I might be considering), to call it out and to put in its place.

As for what that place might be, I imagine past what small spaces the world might provide and in terms more grand than what common words might enable. The human predicament is, after all, deep and persistent. What monstrosity we're aiming to overcome, though likely more similar for each of us to Jeremy's monster than Kylo Ren's, is collectively great, powerful, and tragic indeed.

For me, this means I need the realm of religion of the sort that dares to seek truth. I need the vocabulary of majesty, mystery, and miracle. I need the vision of hope that the kingdom of heaven inspires, and the encouraging work of God's spirit in the world and beyond the world, all on behalf of the world.

Maybe you do too.

If so, rest assured that's what will be going on in meetinghouse this month, spectacular as Star Wars, sweet as a children's story, and bold as the God who can't seem to leave us alone.

—Pastor Liz Goodman

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Snowflakes and Faith

Many people who live in northern New England know the rough outlines of the life of "Snowflake Bentley." He lived in northern Vermont his whole life, born just after the Civil War, and lived until the 1930s. As a teenager, he became fascinated with snowflakes. He tried to draw them but they melted too soon. He developed a method to photograph them and spent the rest of his adult life pursuing photos of snowflakes. His photographs were widely appreciated, and his images are still sought after today. He was a confirmed bachelor, and lived out his days in a room in the house of a relative. Fittingly, he is thought to have died from pneumonia as the result of exposure during an intense winter storm.

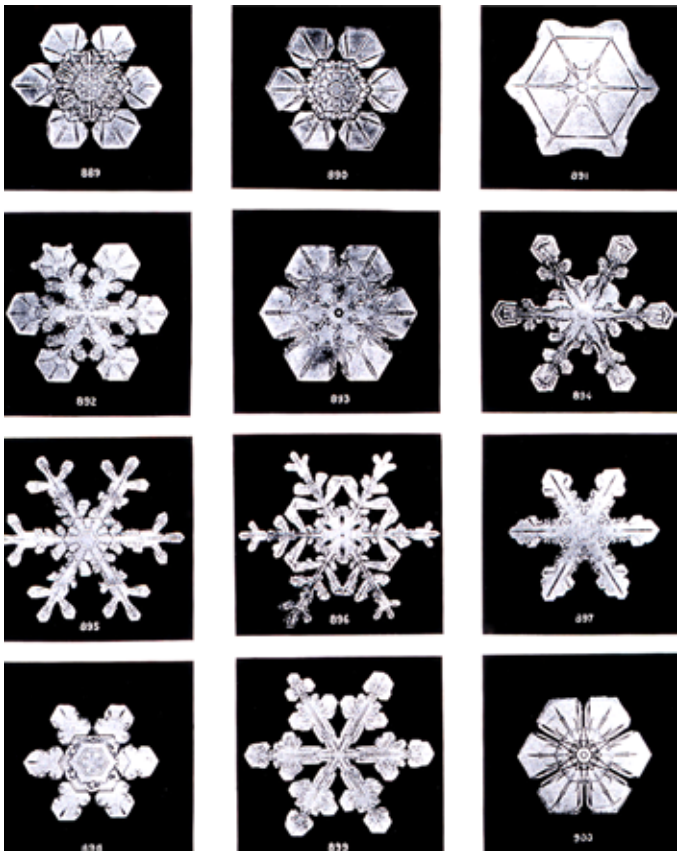
His studies of snowflakes led him to believe that no two snowflakes are alike. This struck people all across the nation—to the extent that it is a commonly-held rule that people are familiar with and probably rarely think to disagree with. One could say it is an article of faith, mostly unexamined, with over a century of believers.

During an average sustained snowstorm a nearly infinite number of snowflakes fall. Hardly even worth thinking in the trillions of snowflakes, perhaps more like trillions squared, that fall in broad swaths for hours or days at a time. Extend the possible number of unique snowflakes during one winter, or even one lifetime, in one spot, say, Jericho, VT where Mr. Bentley lived, to across the globe, to during all snowfalls everywhere throughout time. But the permutations of crystal formation possibilities is certainly an extraordinarily large number as well. Both factors—the unimaginable number of snowflakes that have fallen and will fall, and the equally unimaginable number of possible variations—makes proving or disproving Snowflake Bentley's rule nearly impossible.

To thoughtfully accept his rule as true requires faith. It requires a true believer, one who bases their faith on the library of one man's cataloging efforts over a century ago. It also requires a sense of wonder that such a thing could be true. Why not? No one can argue factually for or against his rule, so we are each free to arrive at faith in our own way. Conversely, one can hold faith that there are duplicate snowflakes, but also hold a magnificent sense of wonder by the thought that among the nearly infinite expressions of crystal formation two identical ones have been produced.

Faith, any faith, requires a degree of suspension of reason based on demonstrable, empirical experience. Faith can connect us to the larger unknowns, which are possible all around us. On the next very cold snowfall (warm snow tends to fall in clumped together crystals, making the individuals difficult to see) go outside with an equally cold surface (a cast iron pan is a good one because it will remain cold and the flakes might show well on the dark surface) and a large magnifying glass and look at some snowflakes. And, as you look at them, wonder for yourself over the question of whether two could ever look alike, and figure out what you believe.

—Stephen Moore



This is one plate from Bentley's monograph of 2,500 snowflakes published in 1931. A simple search will reveal a stunning selection of his snowflake photographs.

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Steve Pullen's springtime potato trench

Attention Growers

Gardeners are the most optimistic people on Earth. Seed catalogs have been arriving since last November at our house. Spring will arrive sooner than we can imagine in spite of this deep freeze we are in. The program committee of the Monterey Community Center is offering a forum for gardeners entitled, "Garden Planning for 2018." The event will take place at the community center on Saturday, March 10, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Some very scrumptious refreshments will be offered and it is a free event.

Whether you are a newbie or an old sod, there is always something new to learn about the challenges of growing in our short New England season. We will have a panel of experts to help answer most any question. We expect lots of participation from all attendees. There is a lot of garden knowledge and wisdom in our town.

Hope to see you there!

—Steve Pullen

Monterey Community Center
DVD Projector and Player

The community center would like to acquire a DVD projector with built-in DVD player and speakers—an all-in-one unit to be used for programs at the community center.

If you have a good quality unit you would like to donate, or feel like offering to purchase one for the center's use, please contact the community center by calling 413-528-3600, or by email at center@ccmonterey.org.

The Friends of the Wilson-McLaughlin House is a charitable, non-profit organization.

Bidwell House History Talk
East Rock is Falling

The Bidwell House Museum is sponsoring a talk by Bernie Drew. Mr. Drew will describe his research up mountaintops and around slopes, into basements, archives, and newspaper files, to pull together stories about East Mountain and its environs in Great Barrington, for his most recent 216-page book, *East Rock Is Falling*. This free talk, sponsored by the museum, will be held on Saturday, March 3, at 10 a.m., at the Monterey Community Center.

Everyone is welcome to attend.

—Heather Kowalski
Executive Directory

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Wildlife Report
Mid-December to Mid-January

Monterey wildlife spotters have been writing in about their bird feeder visitors. Right at the end of December, Carol Edelman on Hupi Road describes the "Bird United Nations" with, "The usual chickadees, nuthatches, juncos, titmice, and a pair of cardinals. (Also) there is the heftiest pair of blue jays and our big, beautiful red-bellied woodpecker is back." About this same time, Chris Goldfinger sent in the first turkey sightings I've heard about in some weeks. There were five of the big dark birds in Chris's photographs, picking up seeds under the bird feeder, at their place on Beartown Mountain Road.

Early in January, David Abromowitz and Joan Ruttenberg, who live near Stevens Lake, saw two coyotes "loping across the field along New Marlborough Road." They sent in a photograph (right) of the two at a distance against the snow, looking back.

Back in that long cold snap, Maureen Banner of Griswold Road saw a blue jay all fluffed up and hunkered down on a branch, keeping its toes warm. She got a good photograph. She also sent us one of a single line of tracks, winding into the woods, with a handful of oak leaves caught in each track, swept there by the wind.

Here on East Hupi Road we have a pair of pileated woodpeckers in Beartown State Forest, across the road from our orchard. They are there most mornings, and Joe saw one of them fly into a large hole in a dead maple. Maybe they are nesting.

Joe also alerted us to an otter trail near here. This is a tobogganing trail, which shows how otters zip along over the snow. It reminds me of a person on a skateboard, traveling along the flat or even a little upgrade. The otter takes a few running steps and then shoots along on its belly for eight or twelve feet sometimes, before running a little, to slide again and again on that remarkable coat, so perfect for gliding through water or across the snow.

In mid-January, Carol and Jim Edelman had a visit from "a pair of very large, healthy looking coyotes. They were gorgeous creatures and stayed quite awhile, snuzzling around near the compost, and we all had a good look at them." Carol says they've been hearing the yipping of the coyotes at night.

Two neighbors with a concern for Monterey bears asked me recently if we can vote into place a town by-law prohibiting the hunting of bears in our town. They had seen the photo in the Sunday *Berkshire Eagle* of two hunters from Tyringham who had "harvested" bears on land they own in Monterey. Some folks may be surprised to know there is a bear-hunting season, and people like to eat bear meat.

Thanks for your wild news and concerns.

—Bonner McAllester
528-9385 bonnermca@gmail.com

David Abromowitz

Maureen Banner

Above- A red-bellied woodpecker snacking on suet.
Below- A blue jay with feathers puffed to improve insulation and keep its toes warm during the cold weather.

Maureen Banner

Transfer Station Winter Hours

Sunday	10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
Wednesday	8 a.m.–1 p.m.
Saturday	8 a.m.–1 p.m.

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In Rememberance
Marjorie Brett Day

Marjorie Brett Day, born Marjorie Louise Brett, passed away peacefully on the morning of this January 6, in Medford, Oregon. She was 93.

Marjorie grew up in Monterey, the daughter of George and Frances Brett of Brett Road. Growing up on a family farm, Marjorie didn't just learn the value of hard work, she lived it. There was always work to be done—cows to be milked and fed every evening, pastured at night, and brought in for the morning milking. The farm was somewhat self-sustaining. Corn was grown and made into silage. In a good year you could get two cuttings of hay each season. One of the jobs Mom disliked the most was clearing rocks and stones from the fields so that farm machinery could safely be used. No matter how many rocks were cleared the year before, come spring a seemingly inexhaustible new crop of rocks would surface when the snow melted. The other job she really disliked was cleaning the kerosene lamps that lit the house. Anyone who remembers lighting by kerosene will remember how it blackened everything it touched. There was no electricity on the farm until WWII and rural electrification. Marjorie attended Searles High School in Great Barrington and worked as a waitress in the summer at the Monterey Tea House across from the general store. She received a bachelor's degree from the University of Massachusetts and spent her professional life in Amherst, working in the public school system. Upon her retirement in 1990 she was instrumental in the founding of the Friends of Amherst's Stray Animals Shelter, which is now part of the Dakin Humane Society. She served as a director, and remained active until she moved to Oregon in 2002 to be near her daughters.

Throughout nearly all of those years, Marjorie continued to have strong ties to Monterey. When her parents retired and sold the farm, they kept a piece of the property and built a small house. After the passing of her father, Marjorie's mother, Frances Brett, continued to live in that house on Brett Road through the 1980s, keeping a horse, a couple of cows, and a pony. Only the lack of central heating and the snowy climb to the woodshed persuaded her, finally, nearing the age of 90, to move in next door to Marjorie in Amherst. It was only after her mother's passing in 1996 that Marjorie finally resigned herself to selling what remained of the farm.

Marjorie is survived by her two daughters, their husbands, and three grandchildren, and by her niece (first cousin once removed) Patricia Thompson, who continues to live on Brett Road. Marjorie will be buried at Corashire Cemetery, where the family will hold a private celebration later in the year.

Maureen Banner

A stoic awaiting springtime

Robert Johnson sent in this photo of a pileated woodpecker.

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Select Board Corner

Welcome to the select board corner. Our goal is to submit an article each month to the *Monterey News* to keep everyone up to date on important issues, office closings, highway projects, etc.

MontereyMA.gov

Our town website is a great way to access information about the town.

Meetings and Events

Board of Health: Monday, February 5, at 4 p.m.

Chair Yoga: Tuesdays 9 to 10 a.m., at the community center.

Conservation Commission: Wednesday, February 14, at 6 p.m.

Council on Aging: Mondays, February 12 and 26, at 10 a.m.

Visiting Nurse: Berkshire VNA will be here on Thursday, February 8, from 2 to 3 p.m. No appointment necessary.

Foot Nurse: Thursday, March 8, 9 to 11:30 a.m., by appointment (please call 528-1443 x247). All ages are welcome.

Parks Commission: Wednesday, February 7, at 6 p.m.

Planning Board: Thursdays, February 8 and 22, at 7 p.m.

Select Board: Wednesdays, February 7, at 9 a.m., and February 21, at 4 p.m. Please call 528-1443 x111 to be placed on the agenda.

Town Hall Closings

Most individual office closings are posted on the town calendar and on the department's voicemail message. We recommend always calling ahead.

Town hall will be closed for Presidents Day, Monday, February 19.

Other News

The select board has presented a preliminary FY19 proposed budget to the finance committee. Right now we are 2% below last year's budget; however, we are still waiting for final numbers from the school district and a few other departments. We have finished the FY17 town report and are just waiting for the printer to send us copies. We have also been updating the town's employee handbook and will soon begin the task of reviewing all the job descriptions to make sure they are up to date.

We have been very pleased with the continued team effort among the departments and have found the monthly department meetings we started late in 2017 to be productive.

We recently sent out a survey to all Monterey boards, commissions, and departments regarding the town bylaw that requires the select board to hold quarterly all-boards meetings, and we received a great response. We will be reviewing them over the next few weeks to determine if there is a need to make amendments to the bylaw, as well as set a schedule for future meetings.

Lastly, as a result of all the positive changes in town hall and the increased communication and efficiency, beginning in February, , meeting on the first (at 9 a.m.) and third (at 4 p.m.) Wednesdays. We will, of course, schedule additional meetings if necessary.

— Steve Weisz, Chair
Carol Edelman and Kenn Basler
Monterey Select Board
(steve@montereyma.gov)
(carol@montereyma.gov)
(kenn@montereyma.gov)

For general inquiries, please click "Contact Us" at www.montereyma.gov.

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Calendar

Every Tuesday: Cards and games, 1 p.m., community center.

Every Wednesday: Balance Review classes, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m., community center.

Every Thursday: Dancersize, from 4 to 5 p.m., community center.

Through Saturday, March 3: Knox Gallery, Leslie Carsewell, *Intersections*.

Thursday, February 1: Town Yarners, 1 to 3 p.m., community center.

CORRECTION: In the January issue Town Yarners was listed for February 8.

Wednesday, February 7: Home repair grants information session, 2 to 4 p.m., at the library. See page 4.

Saturday, February 10: Monterey Democratic town caucus, 10 a.m., church basement. See page 2.

Wednesday, February 21: Community Potluck Supper, 6 p.m., Monterey Meetinghouse. See page 3.

Saturday, February 24:

Monterey Republican town caucuses. State delegate selection at 1 p.m. Nominations for town offices at 1:30 p.m., church basement. See page 2.

Lenox Contra Dance: Music by Anadama, calling by Hanna Otten. All dances taught. 8:30 to 11:30 p.m., beginners session at 8. Lenox Community Center, 65 Walker St. LenoxContraDance.org, or call 528-4007 for information.

Monday, February 26: Adult book group, 7:30 p.m., at the library. See page 10.

To subscribe to a printable monthly calendar via email, write to montereynews9@gmail.com, and put "calendar email" in the subject line or text area. Print it (one page) and forward it.

Thursday, March 1: Town Yarners, 1 to 3 p.m., community center.

Saturday, March 3: Bidwell House history talk, *East Rock is Falling*. 10 a.m., at the community center. See page 19.

Saturday, March 10: Garden Planning for 2018. 10 to 11:30 a.m., at the community center. See page 19.

Wendy Jensen

An otter slide was seen alongside New Marlboro Road. As the otter continued across the other side of the road the track carried right through box wire fencing and on down into the woods.

Monterey News

The *Monterey News* editorial address is PO Box 9, Monterey, MA, 01245. We invite signed letters, articles, drawings, poetry, and photographs. Submissions or inquiries may also be sent to montereynews9@gmail.com or telephone us at 413-528-4007 or email

January 2018 Contributors

The *Monterey News* mails print copies to anyone who requests regardless of whether or not they contribute. But if you don't pay for it, someone else does. Thanks to our contributors this month:

Suzanne O'Connell
& Tom Christopher
Ken & Laurel Kahn
Dan Zweig & Sally Petrick

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assessors@montereyma.gov

Building Department: 528-1443 x118 buildingsafety@montereyma.gov

Community Center: 528-3600
center@ccmonterey.org

Fire Department (non-emergency): 528-3136
chief@montereyma.org

Highway Department: 528-1734
dpw1@montereyma.gov

Library: 528-3795
montereylibrary@gmail.com

Police Department (non-emergency): 528-3211, Alt./Emergency 528-3211
mpdchief@montereyma.gov

Post Office: 528-4670

Tax Collector: 528-1443 x117
montereytax@yahoo.com
(for questions about your tax bill)

Town Clerk: 528-1443 x113
clerk@montereyma.gov

Town website: Montereyma.gov, under each department, for office hours.

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Copy Editor..... Kateri Kosek
Mailing Labels ..... Joe Baker
Treasurer ..... Steve Pullen

Contributions from local artists this month:
George Emmons, p. 14; Bonner McAllester, p. 12.

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